

TWO NEW ERYTHRAEIDS PREDACEOUS UPON COTTON
BOLLWORM EGGS

(ACARINA: ERYTHRAEIDAE)

During the past few years, mites of the family Erythraeidae have been observed to be of some importance in biological control. These mites are known to be parasitic in their larval stage and predaceous in their nymphal and adult stages upon small arthropods. Recently, two undescribed species of erythraeids were found feeding upon the eggs of the cotton bollworm, *Heliothis zea* (Boddie), in Arkansas. Since names are needed for these two mites, a brief description of each is here given. A detailed description with figures will be published later.

Balaustium dowelli, new species

This species closely resembles *Balaustium aonidiphagus* (Ebeling), but the shape and setal pattern of the crista metopica will separate the two. It is distinctive in having a long slender crista metopica with two pairs of sensory setae, the posterior pair being about one-third longer than the anterior pair; in having two pairs of subequal ciliated setae adjacent to the crista metopica which are about equal in length to the posterior sensory setae; and in having ciliated dorsal body setae. The body, excluding the gnathosoma, is 1066 μ long.

Holotype. Female, U.S. National Museum No. 3036, taken on cotton, Conway County, Arkansas, July 26, 1963 by W. H. Whitecomb.

Paratypes. Nine females with the above data.

This species is named for Grover C. Dowell, Department of Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Erythraeus whitcombi, new species

This species is distinctive in having a long, slender crista metopica, the anterior portion being round and with three pairs of ciliated setae, and the posterior portion having two sensilliae but no setae. Most of the dorsal body setae are short and simple, and scattered among these are a few serrate setae which are much longer and stronger. The anal setae are minute and simple. The body, excluding the gnathosoma, is 1866 μ long.

Holotype. Female, U.S. National Museum No. 3037, collected from cotton, Conway County, Arkansas, July 26, 1963 by W. H. Whitecomb.

Paratypes. Seven females with the above data.

This species is named for W. H. Whitecomb of the Department of Entomology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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